



# NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Statement of  
**Gregory P. Barbour**  
**Executive Director**  
Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority  
before the

## **SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

Friday, March 22, 2019  
2:45 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of  
**S.C.R. 50**  
**RENAMING THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY AS THE  
GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI NATURAL ENERGY LAB.**

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) is pleased to comment on S.C.R. 50 which renames NELHA as the George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Lab. The measure is very well written; very comprehensive; very accurate in summarizing Governor Ariyoshi's accomplishments; and, correctly identifies Governor as the founder of NELHA.

It is our understanding is that intent of this resolution is to rename the 900-acre business park after Governor Ariyoshi. This makes good sense for all of the reasons listed in the resolution. We would like to respectfully suggest that the committee consider the naming the park "George R. Ariyoshi Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park". Our facility has evolved over the years and this more accurately describes the Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



## SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 50

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguichi, and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports** SCR 50, which renames the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) the “George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Laboratory” in honor of former Governor Ariyoshi. Doing so would be a fitting honor for the former Governor, who made significant contributions to Hawaii’s environment and planning, not the least of which was supporting the development of NELHA in 1974.

Governor Ariyoshi has had a distinguished career in both public service and private business. While in office he set in motion a series of wide-ranging policies which sought to optimize the development of Hawaii’s resources and strategic location. In addition to serving as the nation’s first Asian American governor, he was also the state’s lieutenant governor, a territorial and state Senator, and a member of the territorial House. He held elected office from 1954 through 1986. Governor Ariyoshi is an Advisor to Watanabe Ing & Komeiji LLP and has held a variety of notable positions in the public and private sectors: U.S. Adviser, Japan-U.S. Science, Technology, and Space; member of the President’s Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiation; Chair of the Board of Governors, East-West Center; President of Prince Resorts Hawaii; board of directors, Pacific Technology Application Corp; Chair, Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems; and numerous other board and executive positions.

Gov. Ariyoshi has served on Blue Planet Foundation’s Board of Directors since 2010. He has been an active and engaged Board member, helping to grow the organization and shape our advocacy, awareness, and programmatic work in support of clean energy. For his countless contributions to renewable energy in Hawaii, Blue Planet Foundation honored Gov. Ariyoshi with the organization’s first ever “Lifetime Achievement Honua Award” in 2018.

Governor George Ariyoshi is a remarkable individual who over his lengthy career has served Hawaii and various private and public entities admirably. Recognizing his contribution through the renaming NELHA the “George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Laboratory” would be proper and honorable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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